

any real foundation, and opposed to the common sense and belief of mankind." "But in all the above instances there is one common fact which stamps them with insanity—a departure from their ordinary character and habits without any adequate motives." P. E.

ART. XVIII.—*Pharmacologia, being an extended inquiry into the operations of Medicinal bodies, upon which are founded the theory and art of Prescribing.* By J. A. PARIS, M. D., Cant. F. R. S. &c., from the ninth London edition, rewritten in order to incorporate the latest discoveries in Physiology, Chemistry, and Materia Medica. With notes, by Charles A. Lee, M.D., A. M., late Professor (elect) of Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence in the University of the city of New York, &c. 8vo. pp. 353. Harper & Brothers, New York, 1844.

THIS valuable production has again been made generally accessible to the student of medicine in this country, by the enterprise of an American publishing house, and highly grateful should he be for the bestowal of so signal a favour. Rare, indeed, is it in medicine for an author to revise and issue an edition of his book thirty years after its first appearance, and still more rare for the last edition under these circumstances, to present a freshness and adaptation to the purposes for which it is intended, fully equal to that which originally characterized it.

Amid the improvements, and changes in science, the *Pharmacologia* of Dr. Paris has not become obsolete, nor has its brilliancy in the slightest measure been obscured by the host of luminous and admirable treatises, that have sprung into existence and competed for popularity with it. To those who are familiar with the merits of the work, the reason of this is apparent. The ground which the author appropriated to himself, has been termed by him the "*Philosophy of Medicinal Combination*;" this has since, not only been almost entirely conceded to him, but he has secured it as a possession by the erection of a system of pharmacological principles, not crude and imperfect, or showy with theoretic ornament, but moulded into form and accurately proportioned by theological skill of a master spirit. So complete has been the arrangement of the materials at his command, so fully have they been elaborated, that to vie with him has proved impracticable, and every effort that has been made, may be regarded merely as an humble imitation.

As it appeared in the first instance, the treatise embraced the whole subject of the materia medica, and so continued through successive editions. Time, however, with its varied revolutions, has rendered expedient an alteration of the plan; consequently, in the present edition, the author has restricted himself to his peculiar province, and laboured rather to perfect it, than come in collision with others, who have so ably of late years cultivated the department of "special pharmacology," among whom may be mentioned Pereira, whose work on this subject is unrivalled.

Condensed, and limited, as it now is, to a single branch, whereby its usefulness is augmented, the *Pharmacologia* covers this entirely, and presents a whole, which as a monument of research, ingenuity and philosophic reasoning will be transmitted to generations far removed. But with the matter, the remarkable traits of superiority do not terminate. The flowing richness of the language, the clearness and chasteness of the style, have always constituted a peculiar merit of the work, which, independently of the vast mass of highly compact information, rendered it most attractive. From this alone must it be assigned a place among the classics of our medical literature. Indeed in point of polish a comparison is well sustained with the choicest standards.

As stated in the title-page and reiterated in the preface—the work has been rewritten; it thus presents the advantages of a new production, yet founded upon "fundamental doctrines," which have "not been shaken," but which must continue so long as medicine is a science. In their appropriate location all the new

discoveries and investigations will be found so well incorporated, as not even to suggest the idea that they have been engrafted; and even keeping pace with the follies of the age, in the chapter devoted to the "Revolutionary History of the *Materia Medica*," the chimeras of the day have been skilfully exhibited.

From the hands of the American editor many accessions have been received in the form of notes of interest and value; his labours are deserving of a grateful acknowledgment.

Our partiality for this veteran production, we judge not to be misplaced, when we declare that it is our firm conviction, that he who has not made himself master of its contents, cannot become an accomplished or accurate prescriber. J. C.

ART. XIX.—*Statistical Report of one hundred and ninety cases of Insanity admitted into the Retreat near Leeds, during ten years, from 1830 to 1840.* By SAMUEL HARE. Extracted from the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal of June 10th, 17th, and 24th, 1843.

THIS is another of those valuable condensed statistical reports of the patients treated in asylums during a series of years, the pioneer of which, was that of the Retreat near York. The establishment, of the medical history of which it is an exposition, is situated "about a mile and a quarter from the town of Leeds." It "is designed for the reception of about twenty-four patients, and so arranged as to accommodate an equal number of each sex." The whole number of *admissions*, in ten years ending in June 1840,

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Was,	107	83	190
Whole number of <i>persons</i> was	93	73	166
" " discharges	96	76	172

The greatest number of admissions in any month was in May, that of any season, in Spring.

The following statistics, excepting those which, as will be perceived, have special reference to the re-admissions, were very properly made out upon the number of *persons* received, and not upon the number of *admissions*.

Of the 166 *persons*, 48 were acknowledged to have insane relatives, 75 were said to have none, and of 43 no intelligence upon this point was received. The author remarks, however, that "in several, if not many, of the cases, a predisposition to insanity existed where the contrary was asserted." So far as data were afforded, this predisposition "was more than six times as prevalent" upon the maternal side as it was upon that of the father, being 27·08 per cent. for the former, and but 4·16 per cent. for the latter.

One hundred and fifteen patients were labouring under a first attack of the disease when admitted; 42 had suffered from one or more previous attacks, and in 9 cases no information on the subject was given.

There were more admissions between the ages of 30 and 40 years, the latter inclusive, than during any other decade of life. In regard to the ages at the time of first invasion of the disease, no information was received respecting 13 cases; of the remaining 153, the first attack occurred more frequently between the ages of 20 and 30 years, than during any other similar period. From 15 to 20, from 40 to 50, and from 50 to 60 years, there were more attacks among females than males; whereas from 20 to 30, and from 30 to 40 years, they were the most frequent among males. The average age at which the disease was first manifested was, "in the males, 34 years, in the females 32½ years, a difference of 1½ years in favour of the males."

The civil state of the patients was as follows: single, 68, married 84, widowers 7, widows 6.

In reference to habits, there were, "temperate 111; intemperate, in various degrees, 43; not stated, 12." Intemperance was by far the most productive of all the physical causes, and anxiety in regard to pecuniary affairs the most so of